Claims:

1. Method for reducing the power consumption of a wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) communicating with an access point (AP1, AP2), in which method the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) is set to dormancy, an in-operation message (408) is transmitted at intervals from the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) to the access point (AP1, Ap2), and for sending the in-operation message (408), the wireless terminal is set in an active state, **characterized**   in that in the method, the wireless terminal is returned to dormancy substantially immediately after the transmission of the in-operation message (408).

2. The method according to claim 1, **characterized**   in that the in-operation message (408) used is a message to which no acknowledgement message is transmitted from the access point (AP1, AP2).

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized**   in that the in-operation message (408) used is a resource request (RR), in which the resource requirement is set as a value for which no resource allocation is performed for the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4).

4. The method according to claim 1, **characterized**   in that the in-operation message (408) used is a message to which an acknowledgement message is transmitted from the access point (AP1, AP2), and that the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) leaves said acknowledgement message unreceived.

5. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 4, **characterized** in that in connection with the setting to dormancy, a maximum transmission interval is selected for the in-operation messages (408), wherein the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) shifts to the active state for transmitting the in-operation message (408) before the selected maximum interval has expired from the transmission of the previous in-operation message (408), and that the reception of in-operation messages (408) is monitored at the access point (AP1, AP2) within the maximum interval.

6. The method according to any of the claims 1 to 5, **characterized** in that the HIPERLAN/2 system is used in data transmission between the access point (AP1, AP2) and the wireless terminal.

5   7. A communication system comprising at least one access point (AP1, AP2), at least one wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) communicating with the access point, means (2) for setting the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) to dormancy for reducing the power consumption, means for transmitting an in-operation message (408) at intervals from the wire-

10   less terminal (MT1–MT4) to the access point (AP1, AP2), the wireless terminal being set in an active state for transmitting the in-operation message (408), **characterized** in that the wireless terminal is arranged to be returned to dormancy substantially immediately after the transmission of the in-operation message (408).

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8. The communication system according to claim 7, **characterized** in that it comprises means (AC1, AC2) for selecting a maximum transmission interval for the in-operation messages (408) in connection with the setting to dormancy, wherein the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) com-

20   prises means (2, 19) for setting to the active state for transmitting the in-operation message (408) before the selected maximum interval has expired from the transmission of the previous in-operation message (408), and that the access point (AP1, AP2) comprises means (18) for monitoring the reception of in-operation messages (408) within the

25   maximum interval.

9. The method according to claim 7 or 8, **characterized** in that it comprises a HIPERLAN/2 system.

30   10. A wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) arranged to communicate with at least one access point, means (2) for setting the wireless terminal (MT1–MT4) to dormancy for reducing the power consumption, means (COM) for transmitting an in-operation message (408) at intervals to the access point (AP1, AP2), and for sending the in-operation message

35   (408), the wireless terminal is set in an active state, **characterized** in that the wireless terminal is arranged to be returned to dormancy substantially immediately after the transmission of the in-operation message (408).